

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 108498

O R 121159Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2520

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GEORGETOWN 0508

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GY,US

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH GUYANESE FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: A) STATE 057189, B) 057158

1. I HAD TWO- HOUR MEETING WITH FRED WILLS MARCH 11. MY MAIN PURPOSE WAS TO GIVE HIM YOUR VERSION OF YOUR MARCH 4 TALK WITH BUNNY MANN, BUT AS USUAL WITH WILLS WE COVERED WATER FRONT.

2. REGARDING GOG PREOCCUPATION WITH VENEZUELA AND BRAZIL, WILLS SAID SOME OF HEAT HAS DISSIPATED AND CABINET IS PROCEEDING MORE RATIONALLY TO TRY TO GAIN CREDENCE FOR GOG DENIALS THAT THERE ARE ANY CUBAN OR OTHER FOREIGN TROOPS IN GUYANA. WILLS SAID QUOTE SIEGE MENTALITY UNQUOTE EXISTED PRIMARILY IN MINDS OF PNC PARTY FAITHFUL BUT CARRIED OVER INTO SOME OF THE MIDDLE CLASS CIVIL SERVANT AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY (THIS IS CORRECT). HE SAID IN PART THE CABINET HAD DELIBERATELY ALLOWED THIS SITUATION TO DEVELOP, BELIEVING THAT IT WAS POLITICALLY DESIRABLE AS A MEANS OF RALLYING PUBLIC SUPPORT BEHIND THE GOVT. NOW THE CABINET BELIEVES IT HAS NARROWED THE SOURCES OF ADVERSE PUBLICITY TO THE VENEZUELAN PUBLICATION RESUMEN AND TO ESTADO DE SAO PAULO IN BRAZIL (I.E. NOT RPT NOT GOV OR GOB). HE CONFIRMED WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED FROM OTHER SOURCES, I.E; THAT INSTRUCTIONS HAVE GONE OUT THRU  
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CABINET TO PNC AND GOVT OFFICIALS TO QUOTE COOL IT UNQUOTE IN

PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND NOT TO REACT FURTHER TO NEGATIVE PUBLICITY FROM ABROAD ABOUT GUYANA. GOG IS ALSO OPENING DOOR TO VISITS BY FOREIGN JOURNALISTS FROM VENEZUELA, BRAZIL AND US. WILLS PROFESSED TO SEE A DIMINUTION OF ANTI-GUYANESE ARTICLES IN US MEDIA SINCE NEW HAMPSHIRE PRIMARY. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO FACT THAT THERE WAS NO LONGER A NEED TO PRE-EMPT GOP CONTENDER REAGAN ON ANTI-COMMUNIST ISSUE. (I TOLD HIM I THOUGHT THIS WAS PRETTY FAR FETCHED, AND HE CONCEDED IT WAS MOST LIKELY A COINCIDENCE.)

3. WHEN I WENT OVER THE POINTS IN REFTEL B REGARDING THE SECRETARY'S LATIN AMERICAN TRIP, WILLS SAID OBVIOUSLY SECRETARY KISSINGER WAS QUOTE TOO CLEVER UNQUOTE TO INITIATE DISCUSSION ON CUBA, KNOWING PUBLICITY INSPIRED THROUGH AMERICAN EFFORTS WOULD CAUSE LA LEADERS INEVITABLY TO RAISE SUBJECT.

4. ON CONSULTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH BRAZIL, WILLS ACCEPTS ALL OF OUR STATEMENTS, BUT SAYS IMPRESSION THROUGHOUT LA IS CLEAR THAT THE AGREEMENT IMPLIES AN UNDERSTANDING ON CLOSE COLLABORATION BETWEEN BRAZIL AND THE US WITH THE MAJOR APPREHENSION BEING QUOTE AGAINST WHOM IS THIS BEING DIRECTED UNQUOTE. WILLS SAID HE HAD BEEN IMPRESSED WITH FACT WE HAVE SIMILAR AGREEMENT WITH INDIA AND HE THOUGHT WE SHOULD PLAY THIS UP MORE.

5. WILLS HAD RECEIVED FROM MANN A FULL TEXT OF OMANG ARTICLE IN WASHINGTON POST. I TOLD HIM (BASED ON PRELIMINARY CHECK AT EMBASSY MORNING MARCH 11) THAT SO FAR AS I COULD ASCERTAIN PATRICK TENASSEE HAD NEVER BEEN EMPLOYED BY AIFLD, BUT THAT WE HAD INDICATIONS HE WAS WORKING AS A VENEZUELAN AGENT AT ONE TIME. I REPORTED FOR HIS BENEFIT THE CONVERSATION DCM MATTHEWS HAD HAD WITH VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR MARQUEZ LAST WEEK (REPORTED SEPTTEL) AND SAID I WAS BEGINNING TO SUSPECT MY VENEZUELAN COLLEAGUE IS QUOTE DABBLER IN MISCHIEF UNQUOTE. WILLS AGREED.

6. I SAID WE HAD HEARD EARLY THIS WEEK THAT GUYANA HAD CLOSED BORDER WITH BRAZIL AT LETHEM. WILLS IMMEDIATELY PHONED HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER MINGO AND AT FIRST GOT AN EQUIVOCAL ANSWER. MINGO PHONED BACK LATER TO SAY THE FRONTIER WAS NOT CLOSED, BUT RESTRICTED, I.E; PERSONS INTENDING TO CROSS IN EITHER DIRECTION ARE REQUIRED TO GIVE FULL PARTICULARS OF PURPOSE OF VISIT AND IDENTITIES. THERE HAS BEEN A HIGHER INCIDENCE THAN USUAL OF MALARIA IN RUPUNUNI  
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REGION, AND THIS AND SECURITY ARE GIVEN AS COMBINED REASON FOR BORDER RESTRICTIONS. WILLS ADDED HOWEVER THAT REAL REASON WAS SECURITY.

7. IN THIS CONNECTION I ASKED WILLS IF ANY CHIEF OF MISSION HAD TAKEN HIM UP ON OFFER HE MADE IN SPEECH AT FAREWELL DINNER HONORING DEPARTING DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS TO PROVIDE PLANE AND AUTHORIZATION FOR ANY COM TO VISIT ANY PART OF INTERIOR. WILLS

SAID FORTUNATELY NONE HAD CALLED HIS QUOTE BLUFF UNQUOTE BECAUSE HE  
WOULD HAVE HAD TO FIND SOME EXCUSE FOR RENEGING.

8. IN DEALING WITH MANN'S QUESTION ABOUT WHAT US ATTITUDE WOULD  
BE IF INVASION BY ONE OF GUYANA'S NEIGHBORS DID IN FACT OCCUR,  
I DIGRESSED MOMENTARILY TO SAY I WAS REMINDED OF SIMILAR HYPOTHE-  
TICAL QUESTION I HAD PUT TO PM BURNHAM TO WHICH RESPONSE HAD  
BEEN THAT I WAS SEEKING TO ANTICIPATE AN EXERCISE OF SOVEREIGNTY.  
WILLS SHOWED HE GOT THE POINT. AS TO MANN'S REMARK THAT THE GOG  
COULD NOT FAIL TO NOTICE THAT PUBLIC CONCERN OVER MENACE  
FROM CUBANS IN GUYANA HAD INCREASED JUST AFTER--(CONT...)

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 108670

O R 121159Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2521

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 GEORGETOWN 0508

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR

REF: A) STATE 057189, B) 057158

SECRETARY HAD VISITED CARACAS AND BRASILIA, I AGAIN REMINDED  
WILLS AS FORCEFULLY AS I COULD THAT MOST IMPORTANT SINGLE FACTOR IN  
STIRRING UP SPECULATION ABOUT CUBAN PRESENCE IN GUYANA WAS THE VISIT  
OF CUBAN TANKER INFEBRUARY WITH ITS CARGO OF FUEL, TANKS AND TANK  
TRUCKS. FACT THAT GOG MADE ABSOLUTELY NO PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
OF PRESENCE OF THIS VESSEL AND RATHER UNUSUAL ACTIVITIES SURROUND-  
ING IT, HAD IN MY JUDGMENT DONE MORE TO EXCITE SPECULATION AND  
TO DISCREDIT GUYANA THAN ANYTHING ELSE THAT HAD OCCURRED.  
ALMOST ANY EXPLANATION WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER THAN ATTEMPT TO  
CLOAK EPISODE IN SILENCE. WILLS ACCEPTED MY REMARKS WITH LOOK OF  
CHAGRIN AND SAID THIS ALL HAPPENED WHILE HE WAS IN MANILA. HE

SAID IN ONE RESPECT HIS ABILITY TO SPEAK HIS MIND ON THIS SUBJECT WAS INHIBITED BY THE FACT THE PM HAD SAID HE WANTED TO WAIT UNTIL WILLS RETURNED FROM MANILA BEFORE DECIDING WHAT, IF ANYTHING, TO SAY ABOUT THE VESSEL. (I FIND THIS SOMEWHAT INGENUOUS.)

9. LOOKING TO FUTURE, I SAID I COULD FORESEE PROBABLE RECRUDESCENCE OF THE WHOLE CUBAN QUESTION BECAUSE CUBANS WOULD PROBABLY VERY SOON BE INVOLVED MILITARILY AGAIN IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. WILLS ACKNOWLEDGED THIS LIKELIHOOD, AND THAT GOG WOULD COME UNDER PRESSURE FROM CUBANS TO ALLOW THEM TO STAGE MILITARY FLIGHTS THROUGH GEORGETOWN. HE SAID SOME CABINET MEMBERS WOULD PREFER TO OFFER CONFIDENTIAL

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WITHOUT BEING ASKED, BUT THAT BURNHAM WAS A LITTLE MORE HESITANT, ALTHOUGH HE WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY ACCEDE TO A CUBAN REQUEST.

10. REGARDING THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, WILLS SAID LIBERATION ELEMENTS IN MOZAMBIQUE AND TANZANIA WERE NOW IN FULL CRY FOR BLOOD, AND THERE WERE ATTEMPTS TO DISCREDIT NKOMO EVEN BEFORE HE HAD PLAYED HIS LAST CARD IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH SMITH. AS WILLS PUT IT, THE ONLY POSSIBILITY OF AVOIDING FURTHER BLOODSHED IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IS FOR THE USG TO COME FORWARD WITH A CLEAR DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR MAJORITY RULE, BACKED UP BY ACTION. HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER'S STATEMENT TO THE CONGRESS COMING DOWN UNEQUIVOCALLY ON THE SIDE OF MAJORITY RULE, BUT THIS WAS NOT ENOUGH.

11. WILLS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IF A CUBAN MILITARY PRESENCE OF ANY KIND IS ALLOWED IN GUYANA, IT WILL BE AT GREAT RISK TO GUYANA'S INDEPENDENCE AND EVEN TO SURVIVAL OF BURNHAM GOVT. WILLS CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THERE IS A CONSPIRACY BY THE CUBANS AND SOVIETS TO PUT JAGAN IN POWER SO THEY WILL HAVE SOMEONE WHO IS TOTALLY SUBSERVIENT TO THEIR OBJECTIVES.

12. WITH REGARD TO THE POSSIBILITY OF YOUR VISITING GUYANA IN LATE SPRING OR SUMMER, WILLS RAISED THIS HIMSELF, SAYING HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS WITH BURNHAM AND THEY WERE BOTH VERY MUCH IN FAVOR OF YOUR COMING, PROVIDED THE VISIT COULD BE KEPT ON AN INFORMAL BASIS, WITHOUT GREAT FANFARE. HE ASSURED ME THAT YOU WOULD BE WELL RECEIVED AND WOULD HAVE AMPLE TIME TO TALK WITH BOTH BURNHAM AND HIMSELF. HE SAID NOTHING FURTHER ABOUT TIMING AND I LET THE MATTER REST AT THAT.

13. AMONG OTHER SUBJECTS WE COVERED WHICH I WILL REPORT SEPARATELY WERE: A) PUERTO RICO IN MULTILATERAL FORA; B) NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING BUREAU; C) SITUATION IN FORMER SPANISH SAHARA; D) GUYANA'S FOREIGN ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS; E) LOS CONFERENCE IN NEWYORK.

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## Message Attributes

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